

From: "Richard Janikowski" <richard.janikowski@gmail.com>  
To: btaylor@memphistomorrow.org  
CC: "Weirich, Amy" <Amy.Weirich@scdag.com>  
"William Gibbons \(\wgibbons\)\" <wgibbons@memphis.edu>  
"Brona Pinnolis" <bpinnolis@memphiscrime.org>  
Date: 10/17/2016 1:52:51 PM  
Subject: Re: Crime "Rankings" for 2014

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Hi Blair,

Trees are changing colors- Fall in the mountains is always spectacular. Hope all is well with you.

### **Current comparison cities:**

1. The OSC Comparison cities identified by Bill many years ago. There were actually two rounds- an initial set that Bill identified and then a second, final set of cities that Bill wanted used. It is that second set that has been used in the OSC Comparison set.
2. The Cities of Choice were included because the city wanted them used and we were told to include an analysis. The Cities of Choice initiative was a Wharton administration initiative- I believe these cities were used for an "aspirational" metric by the city- a group of cities to measure Memphis progress against on a variety of development metrics. I don't know if the city is continuing the initiative under the new administration.
3. The cities 500,000 to 1 Million were selected as a standard group against which the city is generally compared (though at times it is cities with populations 250,000 and above and other times cities with populations 100,000 and above.). Some of the cities are okay as comparison cities others are complete mismatches for Memphis- for example, San Francisco. Fact of the matter is that population is a pretty poor variable for selecting comparison cities.
4. You had requested that Nashville be included in all the comparisons.

### **Alternative Comparison Cities**

1. Phyllis and I have believed for quite a while that there should be two sets of comparison cities:
  - One set of comparison cities which are similar to Memphis on a variety of variables. These cities would be used to measure progress Memphis is/is not making in reducing crime- near term and long term. By doing so, it would also be possible to explore over time what factors may be causing changes in crime rates. For example, a number of years ago I looked at Atlanta because it was showing some major declines in the violent crime rate. The interesting findings were that (1) the actual number of reported offenses (2) Atlanta population had substantially increased which impacted the violent crime rate; (3) the increase in population was mainly due to growth in middle class to upper-middle class residents (individuals who mostly do not commit violent offenses) while the at-risk population had remained basically unchanged. As a result, while the raw numbers for violent crime (for example, murder) had not changed significantly the population growth was changing the violent crime rate. However, to this you would need to construct a matrix of cities comparing on a variety of variables.

- A set of aspirational cities- cities you would aspire Memphis to emulate in the future. Again this requires construction of a matrix of variables for identification- you don't want a set of cities which Memphis cannot realistically move towards in any foreseeable future. You would also trend these cities to see what progress they have achieved over the years.

Hope this helps.

On Mon, Oct 17, 2016 at 12:23 PM, Blair Taylor <[btaylor@memphistomorrow.org](mailto:btaylor@memphistomorrow.org)> wrote:

Hey Richard – Good morning! I hope you're well! do you have notes you can forward about why we chose these comparison communities? Would you recommend we change anything about the comparison cities now?

Blair Taylor

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